

CLAIMS:

1. A dispenser comprising:

a substantially closed housing having a pair of oppositely disposed substantially planar wall portion, substantially parallel and spaced apart by less than 6mm, and a dispensing area,

a supply of filamentary material within said housing,

a moveable cover connected with said housing to be moveable between a first operating condition, and a second operating condition, wherein said cover when in said first operating condition encloses said dispensing area, and said cover when in said second operating condition exposes said dispensing area.

2. A dispenser as claimed in claim 1, wherein said housing includes a dispensing aperture, opening into said dispensing area and within said dispensing area, and

a cutter for severing said filamentary material exiting said housing through said aperture.

3. A dispenser as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said housing has a general shape defined by a boundary and said dispensing area is recessed into said housing to lie wholly within said boundary of said general shape.

4. A dispenser as claimed in any one claims 1 to 3, wherein said cover in said first operating condition, lies substantially within said boundary.

5. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said cover is slidable between said first operating condition and said second operating condition in a sliding direction, and said sliding direction is substantially parallel to said wall portions.

6. A dispenser as claimed in claim 5, wherein said cover is biased toward its said first operating condition.

7. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said cover is pivotally moveable between said first and said second operating conditions, and

the axis of said pivotal motion is substantially perpendicular to said wall portions.

8. A dispenser as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein said cover is hinged to a said wall portion, and said cover hinging about an axis parallel to said wall portion.

5

9. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said supply of filamentary material is a rotatably supported reel.

10. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8,

10

wherein said supply is a reel, and

at least one said wall portion includes a circular aperture,

said circular aperture receiving a bearing portion of said reel such that said reel is rotatably supported between said wall portions with said bearing portions projecting into said aperture.

15

11. A dispenser as claimed in claim 10, wherein said reel includes indicia on an outer surface, and said outer surface is visible through said circular aperture.

12. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11, further comprising:

20

a rotation limiting means for preventing rotation of said reel in a wind-up direction,

said limiting means comprising a ratchet track having a series of teeth with ramped leading surfaces alternating with radial or undercut trailing surfaces on one of said reel or said wall, and at least one complimentary shaped ratchet tooth on the other of said reel or said wall,

25

one of said ratchet tooth, or said track teeth being movable,

said track teeth and said at least one ratchet tooth arranged in a meshing relationship and allowing rotation of said reel in an unwinding direction, by movement of one of said movable ratchet tooth or said movable track teeth, to ride over said other of said movable ratchet tooth or said ratchet teeth.

30

13. A dispenser as claimed in claim 12, further comprising an incomplete ring spacer member located between spaced side walls of said reel,

said ring having a diameter approximately the same as said reel, and said ring having a thickness approximately the same as said space between said side walls,

5 said ring including indexing means, and at least one of said walls including correspondingly shaped indexing means,

said indexing means engaging to prevent rotation of said ring, wherein said filamentary material passes through a gap in said incomplete ring.

10 14. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein said wall portions include step portions adapted to lap one another and substantially seal around a perimeter of said wall portions.

15 15. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein said wall portions are connected together by a living hinge.

16. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein at least one said wall portion includes a further aperture adapted to receive an attachment means.

20 17. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein said cover includes one or more surface features to improve grip.

25 18. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein said housing includes at least one guide to direct said filamentary material from said supply to said dispensing area, and

said guide including a plurality of barbs to impede travel of filamentary material through said guide in one direction.

30 19. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein said wall portions are fastened together by a reversible fastening means for example, cooperating snap lock fasteners.

20. A dispenser comprising:

a substantially closed housing having a pair of oppositely disposed substantially planar wall portions, substantially parallel and spaced apart by less than 6mm, and a dispensing area

5 a supply of filamentary material within said housing, wherein said supply is a reel, and

at least one said wall portion includes a circular aperture,

said circular aperture receiving a bearing portion of said reel such that said reel is rotatably supported between said wall portions with said bearing portions projecting into
10 said aperture.

21. A dispenser as claimed in claim 20, wherein said reel includes indicia on an outer surface, and said outer surface is visible through said circular aperture.

15 22. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 21, wherein said wall portions include step portions adapted to lap one another and substantially seal around a perimeter of said wall portions.

23. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 22 wherein said wall portions
20 are connected together by a living hinge.

24. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 23, wherein at least one said wall portion includes a further aperture adapted to receive an attachment means.

25 25. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 24, wherein said cover includes one or more surface features to improve grip.

26. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 25, wherein said housing includes at least one guide to direct said filamentary material from said supply to said
30 dispensing area, and

said guide including a plurality of barbs to impede travel of filamentary material through said guide in one direction.

27. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 26, wherein said wall portions are fastened together by a reversible fastening means for example, cooperating snap lock fasteners.

5

28. A dispenser comprising:

a substantially closed housing having a pair of oppositely disposed substantially planar wall portions, substantially parallel and spaced apart by less than 6mm, and a dispensing area

10 a supply of filamentary material within said housing, said supply of filamentary material being a reel rotatably supported within said housing,

a rotation limiting means for preventing rotation of said reel in a wind-up direction,

15 said limiting means comprising a ratchet track having a series of teeth with ramped leading surfaces alternating with radial or undercut trailing surfaces on one of said reel or said wall, and at least one complimentary shaped ratchet tooth on the other of said reel or said wall,

one of said ratchet tooth, or said track teeth being movable,

20 said track teeth and said at least one ratchet tooth arranged in a meshing relationship and allowing rotation of said reel in an unwinding direction, by movement of one of said movable ratchet tooth or said movable track teeth, to ride over said other of said movable ratchet tooth or said ratchet teeth.

25 29. A dispenser as claimed in claim 28, further comprising an incomplete ring spacer member located between spaced side walls of said reel,

said ring having a diameter approximately the same as said reel, and said ring having a thickness approximately the same as said space between said side walls,

30 said ring including indexing means, and at least one of said walls including correspondingly shaped indexing means,

said indexing means engaging to prevent rotation of said ring, wherein said filamentary material passes through a gap in said incomplete ring.

30. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 28 to 29, wherein said wall portions include step portions adapted to lap one another and substantially seal around a perimeter of said wall portions.

5

31. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 28 to 30, wherein said wall portions are connected together by a living hinge.

32. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 28 to 31, wherein at least one said
10 wall portion includes a further aperture adapted to receive an attachment means.

33. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 28 to 32, wherein said cover includes one or more surface features to improve grip.

15 34. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 28 to 33, wherein said housing includes at least one guide to direct said filamentary material from said supply to said dispensing area, and

said guide including a plurality of barbs to impede travel of filamentary material through said guide in one direction.

20

35. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 28 to 34, wherein said wall portions are fastened together by a reversible fastening means for example, cooperating snap lock fasteners.

25 36. A dispenser comprising:

a substantially closed housing having a pair of oppositely disposed substantially planar wall portion, substantially parallel and spaced apart by less than 6mm, and a dispensing area,

a supply of filamentary material within said housing, wherein said supply is a reel,

30 and

at least one said wall portion includes a circular aperture,

said circular aperture receiving a bearing portion of said reel such that said reel is rotatably supported between said wall portions with said bearing portions projecting into said aperture, wherein said dispenser further comprises,

5 a rotation limiting means for preventing rotation of said reel in a wind-up direction,

said limiting means comprising a ratchet track having a series of teeth with ramped leading surfaces alternating with radial or undercut trailing surfaces on one of said reel or said wall, and at least one complimentary shaped ratchet tooth on the other of said reel or said wall,

10 one of said ratchet tooth, or said track teeth being movable,

said track teeth and said at least one ratchet tooth arranged in a meshing relationship and allowing rotation of said reel in an unwinding direction, by movement of one of said movable ratchet tooth or said movable track teeth, to ride over said other of said movable ratchet tooth or said ratchet teeth.

15 37. A dispenser as claimed in claim 36, wherein said reel includes indicia on an outer surface, and said outer surface is visible through said circular aperture.

38. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 36 to 37, further comprising an
20 incomplete ring spacer member located between spaced side walls of said reel,

said ring having a diameter approximately the same as said reel, and said ring having a thickness approximately the same as said space between said side walls,

said ring including indexing means, and at least one of said walls including correspondingly shaped indexing means,

25 said indexing means engaging to prevent rotation of said ring, wherein said filamentary material passes through a gap in said incomplete ring.

39. A dispenser comprising:

a substantially closed housing having a pair of oppositely disposed substantially
30 planar wall portion, substantially parallel and spaced apart by less than 6mm, and a dispensing area,

a supply of filamentary material within said housing, wherein said supply is a reel,

a moveable cover connected with said housing to be moveable between a first operating condition, and a second operating condition, wherein said cover when in said first operating condition encloses said dispensing area, and said cover when in said second operating condition exposes said dispensing area, wherein said dispenser further
5 comprises

a rotation limiting means for preventing rotation of said reel in a wind-up direction,

said limiting means comprising a ratchet track having a series of teeth with ramped leading surfaces alternating with radial or undercut trailing surfaces on one of
10 said reel or said wall, and at least one complimentary shaped ratchet tooth on the other of said reel or said wall,

one of said ratchet tooth, or said track teeth being movable,

said track teeth and said at least one ratchet tooth arranged in a meshing relationship and allowing rotation of said reel in an unwinding direction, by movement of
15 one of said movable ratchet tooth or said movable track teeth, to ride over said other of said movable ratchet tooth or said ratchet teeth.

40. A dispenser as claimed in claim 39, further comprising an incomplete ring spacer member located between spaced side walls of said reel,

20 said ring having a diameter approximately the same as said reel, and said ring having a thickness approximately the same as said space between said side walls,

said ring including indexing means, and at least one of said walls including correspondingly shaped indexing means,

said indexing means engaging to prevent rotation of said ring, wherein said
25 filamentary material passes through a gap in said incomplete ring.